

Minutes
INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING

February 16, 2015 6:00PM
Indianapolis Professional Firefighter Union Local 416
748 Massachusetts Ave
Indianapolis IN 46204
317-262-5161

- A Meeting called to order at 6pm

Present

Greg Wyant, Chair
Rob Lund, Secretary
Eric Drieman
Chris Johnson
Joe Romero
Tom Hanify
Robert Johnson, Asst. State Fire Marshal

Absent

John Smith
Burke Jones, vice Chair
Eric Gentry

- B. Approval of December 15th minutes as submitted

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve as submitted. Chris Johnson seconded.
Motion passed.

- C Variance requests;

1. Margaret Sinclair requested a variance for Fire Officer 3. She has a Masters Degree in Public Safety Management. Transcripts enclosed.

She has completed the state skills for FO 3 and completed the variance request packet with all information.

Staff has no recommendation.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve. Chris Johnson seconded.

2. Jayme Washel requested a variance for the prerequisites for Vehicle/Machinery and Trench Operations/Technician certification. We are holding a class in March for the Trench Rescue and due to the skills involved in Vehicle, not all students will have completed the skills in time for Trench testing. I am asking that the students be allowed to take the testing for Trench even though they may not have completed the vehicle rescue at that time.

Staff recommends approval. Staff requests that this be a conditional approval. All testing must be completed no later than July 1, 2015 for this to be valid.

John Buckman requested this date be adjusted to January 1, 2016.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve the request with the change.

Joe Romero seconded. **The Board asked for names to be submitted. Add as addendum to variance request.**

3. Stephen Coover requested variances for the following individuals for Confined Space Rescue Ops/Tech. They have met the prerequisite for this certification. They completed training for confined space rescue at Camp Atterbury through a program with PSTI. They have continued training several times annually for this classification and would like certification based on the last 14 years of classes and additional training. Stephen Coover is present for any questions.

Josh Blackwell; Matt Muchling; Zack Brinson; Kyle Mundy; Ray Cazee; Like Murphy; George Cornwell; Matt Patterson; Tania Daffron; Rick Petermichel; Danny Gillespie; Skyler Pittman; Jeremy Goad; Joe Radanovich; Garrett Greathouse; Jordan Reeves; Jeff Hacker; Brett Roberts; John Hayes; Rob Sears; Jeremy Helton; Kevin Tracy; Bryan Hutchinson; Jayme Washel; Brandon Hudson; Dustin White; Jason James; Jason Zeeks; and Kyle Koons.

Staff has no recommendation at this time. Staff is meeting with Mr. Coover on Feb 7th to gather more information on this issue.

John Buckman explained that he and the Fire Marshal met with Mr. Coover and the Leadership meeting to discuss this. They have a better understand of why they are asking for this.

Steve Coover explained that individuals have certifications issued through the fire dept.; the people listed have the prerequisites.

Rob Lund made a motion to approve. Robert Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

4. Kyle Hinds requested a variance for Instructor I. He holds a current Primary Instructor for ILEA; has 7 years in the fire service and holds several fire certifications. He has been asked to be the training office for his FD and he lacks this certification.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing the Instructor reciprocity test.

Chris Johnson made a motion to approve. Eric Drieman seconded.

5. Christian McFarland requested a variance for Instructor I based on his current Primary Instructor certification.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing the Instructor reciprocity test.

Eric Drieman made a motion to approve. Joe Romero seconded. Motion passed.

6. Jeff Wheeler requested a variance for Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics.

Mr. Wheeler passed the Safety Officer test in 2006 and was denied certification because he had not met the prerequisites. Mr. Wheeler then passed the Fire Officer I testing in 2008, but was denied certification because he did not meet the prerequisite. Mr. Wheeler is requesting a variance for Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics based on his Strategy and Tactics from 1998, and college transcripts. Mr. Wheeler then requests that his Fire Officer I and Safety Officer be credited.

Staff recommends denial. The strategy and tactics from 1998 does not meet the requirements of Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics of today's standards. Without the Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics he does not meet the prerequisite for Fire Officer I. The current Fire Officer I is certified to the 2009 standard, and Safety Officer is certified to the 2008 standard.

Mr. Wheeler explained that he took the classes as they were made available through IFD. They were not available in prerequisite order. At that time, state certification was not a requirement. Now, IFD is requiring certification. IFD has grown, in the last few years and this is now an issue. Mr. Wheeler was asked if he had taken the FOST class yet and he stated that he feels the old Strategy and Tactics should count as the FOST program. Chris Johnson asked him why he did not challenge the current tests to get current certification. Mr. Wheeler feels that he should not have to take the new testing since he completed everything back in 1998, 2006, and 2007. He does not feel that he should be required to do all testing over again since he completed the classes in the past. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Wheeler withdrew this request for variance. He will complete the Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics testing and then reapply for a variance for credit for the old tests. Mr. Wheeler explained that there are over 200 individuals that are going to have this issue.

Mr. Wheeler explained that he was the spoke person for IFD and he wants to be able to take the information that he is gathering today back to IFD.

Joe Romero asked how the Board would handle the large dept. wide requests for this. Jonathan Whitham, legal counsel, stated that we would probably create a request as we did for the career schools. That would seem to be the most efficient way to do these. We cannot just do a group variance and say that anyone in this position we will grant. This is an individual basis and we would look at just how to handle it.

7. Stephen Coover requested a variance for Fire Officer IV, and Public Fire and Life Safety Officer I/II. Mr. Coover has submitted his resume, as well as curriculum of classes that he has attended that meet the current standards required. He is in the audience for questions.

Staff has no recommendation.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve the request. Joe Romero seconded. Motion passed.

8. Bryan Weaver is requesting a variance for Instructor I based on his Indiana Teachers License. The Board denied him in December because he had a substitute teacher's license. He now has a state teaching license and is employed at the Muncie Career Area Center, Fire Science division. Mr. Weaver is here today for any questions along with Jo Ann McCowan, Dir. Career & Technical Education and Extended Service of Muncie Community Schools.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing the Instructor reciprocity test.

Eric Drieman made a motion to approve pending his passing the Instructor Reciprocity test. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

9. Brendon Hartnett requested a variance for Fire Officer IV. Mr. Hartnett has both a Bachelor of Science from IUPUI and two other Associate Degrees, one from IUPUI in Paramedic Science and the other in Fire Science from Ivy Tech. He has completed the variance packet for Fire Officer IV and included the requested documentation including the skills check off sheet.

Staff recommends approval based on documentation submitted.

Eric Drieman made a motion to approve. Joe Romero seconded. Motion passed.

10. Brian Mosely is requesting a variance for Instructor II/III. There was a death in the family and he simply did not get his hours in on time.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

11. John Buckman - Chief Malone desires that all firefighters on IFD become state certified. IFD wants to become an accredited fire dept. through the fire training excellence. This required their firefighters to participate in the states certification system have done this in the past, once with IFD and again tonight with Bloomington FD., Chief Baughman wants to move IFD forward. The Board would like the individuals to request in advance before they take out of order, so IFD is asking to be able to test for Instructor I, Fire Officer I, Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics and Safety Officer out of order.

Marshal Greeson and I discussed this before we met with IFD. We will get the names involved, and we believe that we need to work with them. They are not asking for anything more than taking testing out of order. We want a 1 year period in order to get this done.

Greg Wyant asked for clarification; John Buckman is saying that IFD wants to take testing out of order; Jeff Wheeler is saying that old testing would count. These are two different things. IFD does not have to take the course, but they do have to take the written/practical testing. The fact that they are asking in advance helps. Greg's concern is that the Board did this once before for IFD at Pike Twp., we granted this and nothing happened. From the Board point of view, it throws itself out there a little bit, and gets nothing back. We need something back if we do this. Greg asked for a quarterly update on the status so that the board knows it is not wasting it's time doing this.

Names involved will be submitted.

Joe Romero made a motion to approve the request with the stipulation that a quarterly report will be submitted to the staff on status and all will be complete within 1 year of today's date. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion approved.

D. James Greeson, State Fire Marshal report (presented by Robert Johnson);

We are having the last Fire Marshal Leadership seminar in Versailles on Feb 28 and there are still openings for this.

E Joe Romero, Director of Training report;

I spoke last month on the changes in acadis that we are working on, and just an update, we are still meeting with them to make these changes.

F. John Buckman, Fire Training Report;

1. Is a primary instructor an equivalent prerequisite to having been certified as an instructor for fire officer certifications?

We have people that are PI's and they want this to qualify as a prerequisite for certification. This is due to promotional processes. This issue comes up every few years due to promotions.

Greg Wyant stated that they would still have to take the Instructor Reciprocity test. No action taken by the Board.

2. Non rule policies.

This is from the June meeting in 2014, this is something that we going to be putting this in writing. This is the boards past practice so that you know what the board has done in the past.

3. Firefighter I block exams. This would take firefighter I and break it up into 5 separate tests. You would test on chapters 1-6, test; chapters 7-10, test; chapters 11-14 , test; chapters 15-17, test, and chapters 18-21, test, would need to take all 5 test in order to get firefighter 1 certification. There would still be a final skills day for Firefighter I. To test like this, you are not taking the whole book in class and then trying to remember what you learned in chapter 1, 8-10 months down the road when you take the final exam. This was sent out to 20 people to get feedback. Larry Curl stated that they have discussed this, and this would work with them. When you are done with chapters 1-6, you would not be tested on those chapters again. This is not a short cut, you still total the same amount of questions that you would if you took 1 final test. Can you jump in on block 3 and then take 4, then 2; can you take them out of sequence and still end up with certification? Correction: The lead instructor training template shows that mandatory hours are 220. I will correct this and we will correct on the web page, the mandatory hours are 67 hours. We will correct this today.

Jeff Hayes spoke about issues submitted to the Board, and there is not a chance to do due diligence on it. Why does the board not assigned to a committee to look at these issues? John Buckman stated that they could create a task force to discuss and bring to the board. Tom Hanify stated that on some issues, he would rather discuss this and get it done. Jeff explained that in today's world there is go to meetings, so there is not a lot of traveling involved.

Jim Campbell is working on our Hazmat skills rewrite:

State has adopted the 2008 version, and I am looking at the 2013 standard. The technician packet on the state site are actually 2002 standard. The report is done; I have created the handbook that meets the 2008 standard.

G. Administrative proceedings;

No report at this time

H Request for reciprocity;

No report at this time.

I Old business;

1. Dudley Taylor tabled from December 2014 meeting.

Chief Taylor completed Hazmat Technician out of order. The Board asked why the delay in applying for this.

Chief Taylor is available for questions.

Chief Taylor explained that due to family issues, his schedule and medical issues with his brother, this just fell through the cracks.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

2. Michael Chastain, Garry Bendix and Kristopher Wulff, tabled from Dec 2014 meeting, expired Instructor certifications. The Board requested completed Instructor renewal forms showing that hours were completed on a timely basis.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve for Michael Chastain and Garry Bendix. Kristopher Wulff needs 1 more hour of instructing and when he submits that, his will be granted.

3. Election of vice chair

Rob Lund made a motion to nominate Burke Jones and vice chair. Om Hanify seconded. Tom Hanify made a motion to approve, Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

4. ADA form

Joe Romero made a motion to approve. Rob Lund seconded. Application has been approved and will be posted on the web page under boards and Commissions.

4. Repealing Public Fire and Life Safety Educator:
655 IAC 1-2.1-16

1-2.1-17

1-2.1-18

After a lengthy discussion, the Public Fire and Life Safety certifications will stay. Staff was asked if the districts could fund some of these classes. Fire Depts. have not budgeted for this class and they believe that more people would take it if it was available. John Buckman stated that he would look into this issue.

Wilderness Rescue:

1-2.1-109

1-2.1-110

1-2.1-110.1

The Board tabled the repealing of the Wilderness certifications. This way anyone that wants to speak on behalf of this certification has time to come to the next meeting.

6. Open book testing for instructor reciprocity test results.
So far only 2 individuals have tested, one passed and one failed

Rob Lund made a motion the have the 655 IAC rules and non- rule policies available for all instructor testing. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

- J. New business;
No report at this time.

- K. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

NEXT MEETING:

April 13, 2015 6pm
Wabash TWP VFD
2899 Klondike Rd
W Lafayette IN 47906
765-491-6672